



Be emergency ready

Prepare personal survival kits for these three challenging environments

1 Mountain survival

Mountain conditions can change rapidly for the worse, turning a hike into a survival situation. The air is thinner at high altitude, making it more difficult to tackle rough terrain and easier to become disorientated. Also, air temperature drops between 1°C and 3°C for every 300m you climb and wind chill makes it feel colder, especially if you get wet.

Suitable for Scouts and Explorers

You will need

- pens
- paper

Instructions

- 1** Talk to your section about the priorities for survival in different environments, including shelter, fire, water, first aid, food and rescue.
- 2** Split the young people into groups to discuss their survival priorities in different scenarios. How would the location, time of year and weather conditions affect these priorities?
- 3** Assign each group one of the survival scenarios and ask them to write down what they would put into a personal survival kit no larger than a small, waterproof tin (approximately 12x9x3cm). Things they might need

include: matches, firesteel, water purification tablets, first-aid bandages, a chocolate bar, etc.

- 4** Ask each team to present to the rest of the section what they would put in their survival kits and why.
- 5** Based on what they've learnt, ask each young person to put together a personal survival kit for camp using things they can borrow or find at home, and bring it to your next meeting. Or, they should create a full survival kit for their survival exercise, if they're completing this badge.

- 6** Discuss what they could/couldn't find, and how they could adapt their plan around the things they don't have in order to survive.



Small knife, big ambition

The Swiss Army Knife was patented in 1897 by Karl Elsener, a cutler who supplied knives to the army. He designed his first multi-tool for soldiers and sports people with just a few basic tools like blades, a can opener and a corkscrew. His company, Victorinox, has gone on to make knives for a variety of uses. In 2017, the 500-millionth Original Swiss Army Knife was made.

2 Desert island survival

Imagine you are stranded on a desert island and need to do everything you can to survive until rescue. You may have arrived with very few personal belongings, so familiarising yourself with your surroundings is a priority – the island may offer natural survival aids.



3 Sea survival

Awaiting rescue in a life raft is a scenario where teamwork is essential. The resources you are able to salvage will also help you survive. It will be vital to draw the attention of other vessels, ration food and water, and maintain the buoyancy of your life raft.



Time needed 30 minutes

Badge



Victorinox partners the Scout Survival Skills Activity Badge

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Outcomes

The young people will learn how to prioritise in different survival situations and identify what kit they need. They will have plenty of ideas for putting together their own survival kit for their next camp, hike or other adventure.

Taking it further

Ask your section what survival essentials they would grab if time was short. Limit them to the three most important items. Would they be the same items in different scenarios?

More information

For more badge resources, activity sheets and safety guidance visit: scouts.org.uk/victorinox.